



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/779,663	02/18/2004	Motoyuki Ohsugi	826.1919	1338
21171 7590 03/25/2008 STAAS & HALSEY LLP SUITE 700 1201 NEW YORK AVENUE, N.W. WASHINGTON, DC 20005				
EXAMINER				
CHOU, ANDREW Y				
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
2192				
MAIL DATE		DELIVERY MODE		
03/25/2008		PAPER		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/779,663

Applicant(s)

OHSUGI ET AL.

Examiner

ANDREW CHOU

Art Unit

2192

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 03 January 2008.
2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6, 8 and 9 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6, 8 and 9 is/are rejected.
7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-8508)
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6) ☐ Other: _____
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1-4, 6, and 8-9 have been amended. Claim 7 is cancelled. Claims 1-6, and 8-9 are pending
2. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 01/03/2008 has been entered.

Response to Arguments

3. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-6 and 8-9 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection. See Pieper US 2004/0205690 A1 art made of record below.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

5. Claims 1-6 and 8-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Pieper US 2004/0205690 A1 (hereinafter Peiper).

Claim 1:

Pieper discloses a work flow program generating apparatus (see for example Figure 1, and related text), comprising:

a storing device to store flow definition information which defines a process for controlling a work flow (see for example Figure 1, item 1, "Meta Data Definition Storage", and related text), and screen definition information which defines screen items of a plurality of screens used in the work flow (see for example Figure 8, item 71, "Login Procedure" is screen definition information, and related text); and
a generating device to read the flow definition information and the screen definition information from said storing device, and to generate a screen program (see for example Figure 1, item 3, "Process Generator", and related text), which includes a program code for controlling a flow among the plurality of screens, by using the read flow definition information and screen definition information (see for example Figure 1, item 5, "Process Step", and related text).

Claim 2:

Pieper discloses a computer-readable storage medium (see for example page 2, [0028], "...hard disk...", and related text) on which is recorded a program for causing a computer to execute a process, the process comprising:

reading, from a storing device, flow definition information which defines a process for controlling a work flow, and screen definition information which defines screen items of a plurality of screens used in the work flow (see for example Figure 1, item 1, "Meta Data Definition Storage", and related text); and
generating a screen program, which includes a program code for controlling a flow among the plurality of screens, by using the read flow definition information and screen definition information (see for example Figure 1, item 3, "Process Generator", page 2, [0031], Figure 2, S3, and related text)

Claim 3:

Pieper discloses a computer-readable storage medium on which is recorded a program for causing a computer to execute a process, the process comprising:
reading, from a storing device, flow definition information which defines a process for controlling a work flow of a form process (see for example page 2, [0029], "...meta data definition storage...meta data definition..."), and screen definition information which defines screen items of a plurality of screens used in the work flow (see for example Figure 10, page 7, [0078], and related text);
generating a screen program for displaying a screen, on which data for updating a form table storing form data is input, and a screen program for displaying a screen, on which data of the form table is referred to, by using the read screen definition information (see for example page 5, [0056]);
generating a screen program for displaying a screen, on which data for updating a work flow table storing data of the work flow of the form process is input, by using the read

flow definition information and screen definition information (see for example Figure 10, page 7, [0078], and related text); and

generating a screen program for displaying a screen, on which data of the form table is referred to, based on the data of the work flow table by using the read screen definition information (see for example Figure 10, page 7, [0078], and related text).

Claim 4:

Pieper discloses a computer-readable storage medium on which is recorded a program for causing a computer to execute a process, the process comprising:

reading, from a storing device, flow definition information which defines a predetermined number of hierarchical levels, on each of which an approver gives approval to a form, in a work flow of a form process (see for example page 2, [0030], "...hierarchical with a master node and a plurality of child nodes," and Figure 9, item 9, "Application Data Storage", and related text); and

generating a screen program for displaying a screen, which includes input items of approvers by the number of hierarchical levels, by using the read flow definition information (see for example Figure 10, page 7, [0078], and related text).

Claim 5:

Pieper further discloses the computer-readable storage medium according to claim 4, wherein

the computer reads, from the storing device, screen definition information which defines screen items of a screen used in the work flow of the form process, and generates a screen program for displaying a listing screen of forms, which wait for approval given by

Art Unit: 2192

the approvers, by using the read screen definition information (see for example Figure 7, "Process_1", "Process_2", and associated text).

Claim 6:

Pieper discloses a computer-readable storage medium on which is recorded a program for causing a computer to execute a process, the process comprising:

reading, from a storing device, flow definition information which defines a status of presence of withdrawal of a form forwarded in a work flow of a form process or withdrawal of a form forwarded in a work flow of a form process (see for example page 8, [0088], "...frame..."); and

generating a screen program for displaying a screen, which includes a button for withdrawing a form, if the read flow definition information indicates the status of presence of withdrawal, and generating a screen program for displaying a screen, which includes a button for withdrawing a form, if the flow definition information indicates the status of absence of withdrawal (see for example page 8, [0088], "...screen...").

Claim 7:

(Cancelled)

Claim 8:

Pieper discloses a work flow program generating method, comprising:

reading, from a storing device, flow definition information which defines a process for controlling a work flow, and screen definition information which defines screen items of a plurality of screens used in the work flow, by a generating device (see for example Figure 1, item 1, "Meta Data Definition Storage", and related text); and

generating a screen program including a program code for controlling a flow among the plurality of screens by using the read flow definition information and screen definition information, by the generating device (see for example Figure 1, item 3, "Process Generator", and related text).

Claim 9:

Pieper discloses a work flow program generating apparatus, comprising:
storing means for storing flow definition information which defines a process for controlling a work flow, and screen definition information which defines screen items of a plurality of screens used in the work flow (see for example Figure 1, item 1, "Meta Data Definition Storage", and related text); and
generating means for reading the flow definition information and the screen definition information from said storing means, and for generating a screen program, which includes a program code for controlling a flow among the plurality of screens, by using the read flow definition information and screen definition information ((see for example Figure 1, item 3, "Process Generator", and related text).

Conclusion

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Andrew Y. Chou whose telephone number is (571) 272-6829. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 8:00 am - 4:30 pm. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Tuan Q. Dam, can be reached on (571) 272-3695.

Art Unit: 2192

The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571) 273 8300.

Any inquiry of a general nature of relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the TC 2100 Group receptionist whose telephone number is (571) 272 2100.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll free)

/Andrew Chou/

Examiner, Art Unit 2192

/Tuan Q. Dam/

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2192